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At the Anniversary Meeting held on the 25th May, 1840, the President presented the gold medals, awarded respectively to Mr. R. H. SCHOMBURGK, and Major RAWLINSON of the Bombay Army, in the following words:—

“MR. SCHOMBURGK,—By favour of her MAJESTY the queen of these realms, the Royal Geographical Society is authorized to apply the medal now before me to the encouragement of Geographical Science and Discovery, and it is in the conscientious discharge of the duty which has thus devolved upon them that the Society has determined to place in your hands this honourable testimony of their approbation and esteem. Sir,—In the arduous journey in which you were engaged during a period of five years, you faithfully complied with the instructions, and more than fulfilled the expectations, of your employers. Guided, in the first instance, by the footsteps of your illustrious countryman Baron HUMBOLDT, you afterwards visited a country in which no one had preceded you. A problem which he began to solve you have brought to its conclusion, and by your joint observations we have now astronomically determined a connected series of fixed points along a line extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Nor is it in this respect only that we recognise in you the qualities of your great predecessor: like him, you are distinguished by the variety of your talents and the extensive range of your studies. The zoologist gladly recognises in you the discoverer and describer of several species of birds and fishes,—the botanist, of many plants before unknown to naturalists. An account of your geographical observations, given in the order of their occurrence, is reported in our Journal; and in the work which you have since published, and in which you develop for the first time the great and unexpected resources of British Guayana, you have rendered an important service to those of our countrymen who hold property in that colony. The map which you have constructed, and which the Society is about to publish, bears ample testimony of your ability as a physical geographer. The able and affecting appeal which you have made in behalf of large tribes of our fellow-men and fellow-subjects, with whose merits and sufferings we were previously unacquainted, has not been made in vain; and you are now about to return to the land of your former wanderings under the sanction of the government, not only to enlarge the boundaries of science, but to secure the interests of this country and vindicate the rights of humanity. We are well aware of the labours you underwent in your former journeyings, the privations you suffered, the perils you encountered; and in admiring that patient endurance, that undaunted spirit, that determined perseverance of which we find in your late expedition such abundant proofs, we feel justified in entertaining the confident as well as earnest hope that, after the successful accomplishment of your new mission, you will return among us crowned with additional honours and possessing still higher claims on our gratitude and respect.”

Mr. SCHOMBURGK, in reply, said—

“Sir,—The distinction which the Royal Geographical Society enjoys

among the scientific bodies in Europe, and the lead which it has hitherto taken in the advancement of geography, must render so honourable a testimonial as you have just now bestowed upon me a proud acquisition to any traveller, the more when he looks back to the distinguished travellers and discoverers who at former periods have received from this chair the Royal Premium. But to me it is an additional source of gratification, as it proves to the world that the researches which were carried on under the patronage and direction of this Society met with their approbation. I may perhaps be permitted briefly to recapitulate some of my labours in the West Indies. In the year 1831 I executed a survey of Anegada and its dangerous reefs, by which I trust I have been the means of saving the lives of many of my fellow-creatures, and several vessels from shipwreck. This survey brought me into connexion with the Geographical Society, and I subsequently, as related in its Journal, explored the rivers Essequibo, Corentyn, Berbice, and investigated the capabilities of the rich and fertile colony of Guayana. One of my discoveries during this period was the *VICTORIA REGIA*, the most beautiful specimen of the Flora of the western hemisphere; and it gives me much pleasure to announce to you, on this occasion, that, after three vain attempts to convey living specimens of that plant from the interior to the coast, I have just received information that five plants have arrived in good order in Georgetown, Demerara, and I hope will shortly reach England. I need scarcely say that the first specimen that arrives will be placed at the disposal of her Majesty, who has graciously permitted this beautiful flower to bear her name. My subsequent journey to Esmeralda, the details of which are in course of publication, enabled me to connect my observations with those of Baron Humboldt; and I am proud here to state that it was the example set by that distinguished traveller that has led me onward through difficulties and privations of no ordinary nature, till I had the good fortune to accomplish the journey that you have been pleased this evening to crown with your approval. For myself personally, I do not feel that I have a claim to this high honour. Let me, however, consider it as an encouragement to further exertion; and although the path marked out for me at present, in my future travels in Guayana, is restricted to the limits of the colony, I confidently trust that I may obtain permission to extend them to the eastward, and also that another attempt may be made to reach the source of the Orinoco to the westward, by ascending the rivers Mocajahi and Catrimani. To you, Sir, as President of the Society, I beg to offer my sincere thanks for the too flattering terms in which you have conferred this distinction, which I shall ever consider as one of the proudest events of my life; and I trust that my future researches may prove me to have been not wholly unworthy of it."

The Chairman then, turning to the late President of the Geographical Society of Bombay, said—

"Admiral Sir CHARLES MALCOLM,—In awarding to Major HENRY CRESWICKE RAWLINSON, of the Bombay Army, the Founder's Medal for the year 1839, the Council of the Royal Geographical Society have

been guided, not merely by the zeal, perseverance, and industry with which that officer has successfully explored the provinces of Luristan, Khusistan, and Azerbaijan, and the valuable additions which, in his Memoirs published in our Transactions, he has thrown on our knowledge of the physical geography of that large and important portion of the mountain-ranges which divide the basin of the Tigris from the elevated plains of Central Persia; but they have wished more particularly to give this mark of their approval and regard to the vast extent of learning and historical research which Major Rawlinson has brought to bear on the objects of his geographical inquiries. This officer has given, in the course of these Memoirs, a bright and animating example of the manner in which the knowledge to be derived from books—and from books too which, to the generality of English readers, are of the most recondite description—may be applied to objects of practical science: I mean, to the improvement of our knowledge of ancient geography. Major Rawlinson has, in the course of his travels in Luristan and Khusistan, verified various ancient routes from the Tigris, across the range of Zagros, into Media—has identified the affluents of that river, by a strict comparison of their ancient and modern names and courses—and has thrown great light on the towns celebrated in profane and sacred history under the names of Sús, Susán, Shústér, and Elymaís. In the province of Azerbaijan, the original seat of the fire-worshippers of the ancient world, Major Rawlinson has given us a clear and valuable description of the eastern and southern shores of the lake Urumiyah, and of the country between that and the shores of the Caspian. His researches into the probable existence of two cities bearing the name of Ecbátana—one of them in Atropatene, and the other in Media Magna—have given occasion to one of the most lucid and learned essays on the comparative geography of the world which have ever adorned the pages of the Transactions of this or any other Society instituted for the promotion of either natural or historical knowledge. It is on these accounts, Sir, that the Council have been pleased to award to Major Rawlinson this medal; and I need not add what pleasure I feel in having to place it in the hands of the late President of the Geographical Society of Bombay, who, from his long and intimate connexion with India, is so well qualified to appreciate Oriental research—to echo our applause—and to convey to Major Rawlinson with greater feeling, and therefore with greater fidelity, than I now convey to him, the interest which we have taken in his past, and which we must continue to take in his future labours.”

Sir CHARLES MALCOLM, in reply, said—

“ Sir,—I feel that the selection which you have been pleased to make of me, as late President of the Geographical Society of Bombay, to receive the gold medal for Major Rawlinson, will be gratifying beyond measure to that Society, as it will show to them that they stand high in the opinion of the parent Society from which they emanate; and that there is on your part the warmest feeling of good will towards them, and a determination to uphold and assist them in their efforts to enlarge our geographical knowledge in the East. To me, personally, it will be a pleasing duty to send this honourable token of your approbation to

Major Rawlinson, accompanied as it will be by the address you have just delivered, which has so clearly and justly brought before us his merits as a traveller, because I remember him well when he was a gay high-spirited young man, apparently thinking but little of these pursuits which have drawn forth his talents not only as a rising politician and a soldier, but also as one of the first comparative geographers of the age.

There can be no doubt that the Royal Premium awarded to the adventurous and eminent traveller Sir Alexander Burnes, who now stands so high above the political horizon in the East, stimulated that officer in his rapid career; nor can I doubt but that it was also, in prospect, a strong incitement to Major Rawlinson, as it will be to many others; and it will be a proud feeling for the Geographical Society of Bombay to see two of its members receive this honourable mark of your approval. In speaking of that Society, it affords me great pleasure to have an opportunity of bearing my public testimony to the exertions of its able and learned Secretary, Dr. Heddle, to whom the Bombay Geographical Society is chiefly indebted for the position which it now holds: and I may here mention that another member of that Society, Lieut. Wood of the Indian Navy, is now in London, preparing for publication the account of his journey into Khunduz and to the sources of the Oxus, an outline of which will be given to this Society at its next meeting.

In conclusion, I cannot but repeat my conviction that the award of this evening will be a great encouragement to future labourers in the cause of geography in the East; and the recent act of liberality of this Society, in presenting a complete copy of the Geographical Journal to the ten principal civil and military stations in India, cannot fail to excite a corresponding exertion on the part of the officers of the Indian army and navy. Again, Sir, I beg to offer to you, in the name of Major Rawlinson, my best thanks for the distinction which this Society has awarded to him, and for the flattering terms in which you have been pleased to convey it."
